

[English]

Rise in Price of Coconut Oil

903. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) The percentage of rise in the prices of coconut oil at the end of June, 1991;

(b) the main causes therefor; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to contain the prices of coconut oil and to ensure its availability to the consumers at a reasonable rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The wholesale price index number of coconut oil for the month of June, 1991 was higher by 5.6% over January, 1991.

(b) The main factors contributing to the rise in the prices of coconut oil are attributed to general upsurge in edible oil prices, virtual stagnation in coconut oil production coupled with gap between demand and supply (edible oil as a whole) because of limited imports of edible oils.

(c) For augmenting the country's production of coconut oil, Government has set up a Coconut Development Board for promoting coconut cultivation/development. Efforts are being made for improving the production by using modern techniques, i.e., Tissue Culture etc. Remunerative support prices are being announced annually. In order to give thrust for its development, coconut has been declared as an Oilseed. For improving the availability to indigenous oils, Government is continuing with oilseed production programme, oilseeds projects of N.D.D.B., setting up of Technology Mission on Oilseeds, intensification of research.

Government has also decided to allow blending of any two edible oils including coconut oil.

Central Agencies Working for Rural Development

904. SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: the details of the Central agencies presently working for rural development in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): The Poverty Alleviation and other Programmes of this Ministry are normally implemented by the State Governments. However, there are two Central Agencies under this Ministry which are working for specific aspects of rural development. Their details are given below:

i) The Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART):

The Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) was registered under the Societies Registration Act in September, 1986 and is working under the aegis of the Ministry of Rural Development. The primary functions of the Council is to encourage, promote and assist voluntary action in the implementation of projects for the enhancement of rural prosperity. In pursuance of this objective, the Council has been giving financial and technical assistance to voluntary agencies for implementing projects under various Schemes. The Council is also engaged in the promotion/application and spread of science and technology in the villages.

ii) National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD):